

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PEKING 00122 220500Z

53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

SAJ-01 COME-00 AGR-05 /064 W
----- 090600

R 220300Z JAN 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5049

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 122

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: VISIT TO TACHAI

1. SUMMARY. TWO USLO OFFICERS VISITED TACHAI AND HSIYANG HSIEN JANUARY 11-14 WHEN WINTER CONSTRUCTION SEASON WAS IN FULL SWING. THEY WERE EXCORTEED BY CHAI LAI-HENG, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE TACHAI PRODUCTION BRIGADE, AND VISITED SEVERAL AREAS OF TACHAI BRIGADE, THREE PRODUCTION BRIGADES OF TACHAI COMMUNE, A WATER CONSERVANCY PROJECT IN A NEIGHBORING COMMUNE, AND INDUSTRIES IN HSIYANG CITY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS EXPECTED, THE MAIN MESSAGE GIVEN BY TACHAI AS A NATIONAL MODEL IS SELF-RELIANCE; I.E., EVEN THE POOREST AREA CAN BY ITS OWN EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURE BECOME ECONOMICALLY ADVANCED, AND INCREASE PRODUCTION ENOUGH TO BOTH IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOOD OF ITS PEOPLE AND INCREASE DELIVERIES OF GRAIN TO THE STATE. IN TACHAI BRIGADE THE SELF-RELIANCE THEME IS CARRIED TO EXTREMES: IT DOES NOT ACCEPT YOUTH FROM THE CITIES, IT HAS NO CCADRES FROM OUTSIDE, AND THERE IS NO INDUSTRY CONNECTED WITH THE BRIGADE ITSELF EXCEPT TOOL REPAIR. TACHAI COMMUNE IS LESS PURE: IT HAS BROUGHT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PEKING 00122 220500Z

IN PERSONNEL FROM OTHER COMMUNES IN HSIYANG HSIEN TO

RUN THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE HOSTEL AND FROM PEKING TO SERVE AS DOCTORS AND TECHNICAL WORKERS IN THE COMMUNE HOSPITAL AND AS TEACHERS IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND TO RUN SMALL INDUSTRY DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH AGRICULTURE. HSIYANG COUNTRY HAS A NUMBER OF MANAGEMENT CADRES IN INDUSTRY FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTY.

3. TACHAI'S IDEOLOGICAL LESSON (CHIA SAID THE "LINE" WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRODUCTION IN TACHAI'S PERFORMANCE AS A MODEL) GOES STILL FURTHER. ALL THE MEMBERS OF ITS REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE ARE SAID TO SET AN EXAMPLE BY SPENDING AT LEAST 250 DAYS A YEAR IN "PRODUCTIVE LABOR", AND THE CALLUSED HANDS OF SEVERAL OFFERED CONVINCING PROOF. SIDLINE OCCUPATIONS ARE LIMITED TO GROWING VEGETABLES AND CHICKENS AND PIG PRODUCTION IS BEING TAKEN FROM THE HOUSEHOLDS AND PLACED IN COMMUNAL PIGGERIES. MOREOVER, TACHAI BRIGADE'S MEMBERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WORK IN INDUSTRY OUTSIDE THE BRIGADE, AND THERE ARE NO "BAREFOOT DOCTORS", SINCE THIS WOULD REDUCE THE WORK FORCE AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK.

4. A THIRD MESSAGE IS HARD "PRODUCTIVE" (I.E. MANUAL) WORK. FROM WELL BEFORE DAY-LIGHT UNTIL AFTER DARK, CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS IN PROGRESS. COMMUNE MEMBERS WERE BLASTING LOESS HILLS, TRANSPORTING EARTH AND ROCKS FOR LAND FILLS, QUARRYING AND DRESSING STONE FOR RETAINING WALLS, CONSTRUCTING WALLS AND CULVERTS AND PREPARING THE LAND IN NEW FIELDS. MOST OF THE WORK WAS BY HUMAN LABOR, ALTHOUGH THE BRIGADE HAS BORROWED FIVE BULLDOZERS AND THEIR OPERATORS FROM HSIYANG COUNTY. IN TACHAI COMMUNE THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTING NEW FIELDS IS PROCEEDING IN PLANNED ANNUAL INCREMENTS, AND IN GENERAL APPEARED TO ADD APPRECIABLY TO THE JNEA'S PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY. (THERE WERE SEVERAL PLACES IN WHICH RETAINING WALLS CONSTRUCTED LAST YEAR HAD COLLAPSED, WHICH RAISES SOME QUESTION OF THEIR ABILITY TO WITHSTAND A CLOUDBURST SUCH AS THAT IN TACHAI IN 1963.) WORK IN AREAS OUTSIDE OF TACHAI ITSELF, HOW-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PEKING 00122 220500Z

EVER, OCCASIONALLY APPEARED TO CONTAIN AN ELEMENT OF "WORK FOR WORK'S SAKE."

5. CHIA AND OTHERS AT TACHAI WERE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE MEANING OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION, WHICH AT TACHAI IS TO BE COMPLETED BY 1978. IT IS LIMITED TO MECHANICAL PLOWING, TRANSPORTATION, PUMPING, AND SOME AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING (SUCH AS CHOPPING FODDER

OL; IT DOES NOT

INCLUDE MECHANICAL PLANTING OR HARVESTING, ALTHOUGH BOTH ARE UNDER STUDY. ONE PURPOSE OF MECHANIZATION IS TO FREE LABOR FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER DUTIES, ALTHOUGH INDUSTRY WAS NOT MENTIONED. ANOTHER IS TO REDUCE THE LIVESTOCK (SPECIFICALLY DONKEYS AND HORSES) CONSUMING THE PRODUCT OF LAND WHICH COULD BE USED FOR FEEDING PEOPLE. OUR QUESTIONS ON FINANCING OF MECHANIZATION WERE NOT ANSWERED.

6. ALTHOUGH JANUARY IS A SLACK SEASON FOR VISITORS COMING TO STUDY AGRICULTURE IN TACHAI, THERE WERE STILL SEVERAL HUNDRED CHINESE VISITORS A DAY, INCLUDING PLA, PSB, AND STUDENTS, AND EVAN A CONTINGENT OF 80 OR SO TIBETANS. CHIA SAID THAT TACHAI RECEIVED ABOUT 300,000 VISITORS LAST YEAR (INCLUDING A RECORD OF 30,000 IN ONE DAY), AND EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SOME 600,000 IN 1976. WHILE ITS ROLE AS A MODEL IS OBVIOUSLY PRIMARY IN TACHAI, A STRONG EFFORT IS MADE NOT TO LET THE VISITORS INTERFERE WITH PRODUCTION.

7. TACHAI BRIGADE EVIDENTLY DOMINATES THE TACHAI COMMUNE. CHIA LAI-HANG (WHO APPEARS TO BE THE VICE CHAIRMAN IN CHARGE OF VISITORS) WAS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE PEOPLE AND WORK IN THE OTHER BRIGADES, AND WAS TREATED AS IF HE WERE A VISITING SUPERIOR. QUESTIONS ON TACHAI BRIGADE'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNES AND WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WERE NOT ANSWERED, AND WE WERE NOT PERMITTED TO TALK WITH COUNTY OFFICIALS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS A SORE POINT, AND THAT THE TACHAI BRIGADE DOES NOT HESITATE TO USE ITS POSITION AS A MODEL AND ITS CONNECTIONS WITH THE PARTY CENTER THROUGH CHEN YUNG-KUEI IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS OSTENSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PEKING 00122 220500Z

EQUALS AND SUPERIORS. REFERENCES TO CHEN YUNG-KUEI WERE FREQUENT, AND CHIA SAID WITH REGRET THAT CHEN HAD VISITED TACHAI ONLY ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR SINCE HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO.

8. THE INHABITANTS OF THE TACHAI BRIGADE HAVE RECEIVED SOME PREQUISITES FOR THEIR POSITION AS A NATIONAL MODEL. THE COMMUNE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL, BOTH PARTLY MANNED BY OUTSIDERS, ARE LOCATED IN ITS VILLAGE, AND BRIGADE MEMBERS USE THE ROADS, SHOPS, AND RESTAURANT WHICH ARE BASICALLY INTENDED FOR VISITORS.

9. UNLIKE TACHING, WHICH AS A MODEL FOR INDUSTRY CONTAINS ELEMENTS WHICH ITS EMULATORS COULD NOT HOPE TO DUPLICATE,

TACHAI IS A GENUINE EXAMPLE OF HOW THE POOREST AREAS IN CHINA CAN IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIES. ENOUGH QUESTIONS ON FINANCING WERE LEFT UNANSWERED TO CREATE SOME SUSPICION THAT THERE WERE OUTSIDE SUBSIDIES, BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVED THAT THE TACHAI BRIGADE, WITH A MINIMUM OF MATERIAL INCENTIVE AND AN ALMOST FANATICAL DEVOTIION TO WORK AND TO CHEN YUNG-KUEI, HAS BASICALLY PULLED ITSELF UP BY ITS BOOTSTRAPS. COMPARED WITH THE COMMUNES AROUND PEKING AND SHANGHAI, IT HAS NOT COME VERY FAR, BUT THE PROGRESS IS SIGNIFICANT TO THOSE WHO LIVE THERE AND THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED IS IMPRESSIVE TO VISITORS.

10. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
THOMAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, VISITS, PRODUCTION DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING00122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0908
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760134/aaaabdp.tel
Line Count: 184
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO TACHAI
TAGS: EAGR, CH, (CHAI LAI HENG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006